

# Borough Franchise (Ireland) Bill.

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## ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

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Clause.

Preamble.

1. Short title of Act.
2. Repeal of present occupation franchise.
3. Occupation franchise in cities, towns, and boroughs.
4. When value of premises under one pound immediate lessors to be rated.
5. Precepts, &c. to be made conformable to this Act.
6. Provisions as to registration to continue in force.
7. Supplemental lists of new voters of the next year to be made out.
8. Special revisional supplemental lists.
9. List of town clerk, proof that claim is duly made.
10. Construction of Act.
11. Definition of Registration Acts.

SCHEDULE.

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## B I L L

TO

Extend the Borough Franchise in Ireland.

A.D. 1878.

**W**HEREAS it is just and expedient to extend the parliamentary franchise in the towns, cities, and boroughs in Ireland: Provided.

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may upon all occasions and for all purposes be cited as "The Borough Franchise (Ireland) Act, 1878:" Short title of Act.

2. *From and after the passing of this Act* the third clause of "The Representation of the People (Ireland) Act, 1868," shall be and the same is hereby repealed; but such repeal shall not affect the validity of any register of voters which shall be in force on that day, and the same shall continue in full force and effect as if this Act had not been passed. Repeal of present occupation franchise.

3. *From and after the passing of this Act* the fifth section of the Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-nine, and all other sections or parts of the same Act which relate to or affect the parliamentary franchise in the cities, towns, and boroughs in Ireland, or the registration of voters upon whom it is conferred, and in which are the words "eight pounds" in reference to the said franchise, shall be read and construed as if the words "*one pound* or upwards" had been used and were substituted in the said fifth and other sections instead of and for the words "eight pounds," and so and in such manner that, subject to all the provisions of the said Act and all Acts amending the same, the occupation of lands, tenements, or hereditaments rated at the net annual value of "*one pound* or upwards" shall be as effectual to qualify any man to be registered as a voter and when registered to vote at any election of members to serve in Parliament for any city, town, or borough in Ireland to be held after the passing of this Act as the occupation Occupation franchise in cities, towns, and boroughs.

[Bill 141.]

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A.D. 1878. of lands, tenements, and hereditaments rated at the annual value of more than four pounds was before the passing of this Act; and in all provisions relating to such occupation, registration, or voting, and in all lists, returns, precepts, notices, or other forms made or fixed in pursuance of the provisions of the Registration Acts the words "*one pound and upwards*" shall, where necessary, be substituted for the words "more than four pounds."

When value of premises under 11. immediately lessors to be rated.

4. *From and after the passing of this Act* the fourteenth section of the Act passed in the thirty-first and thirty-second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter forty-nine, and all other sections or parts of the same Act which relate to or affect the franchise to the parliamentary franchise in the towns, cities, or boroughs in Ireland, or the registration of voters upon whom such franchise is conferred, and in which are the words "more than four pounds" in reference to said franchise, shall be read and construed as if the words "*one pound or upwards*" had been used and were substituted in the said fourteenth and other sections and parts instead of and for the words "more than four pounds;" and whenever in the said fourteenth or other sections the words "not exceed four pounds" shall occur the same shall be construed and read as if the words "*be less than one pound*" had been used and were substituted instead of and for the words "not exceed four pounds."

Precepts, &c. to be made conformable to this Act.

5. All precepts, instruments, proceedings, and notices relating to the registration of voters shall be framed and expressed in such manner and form as may be necessary for carrying the provisions of this Act into effect.

Provisions as to registration to continue in force.

6. All the provisions of any statute which are now in force relating to the preparation and publishing of any lists of voters or persons claiming to vote in any city, town, or borough, or relating to the revision of such lists, or the service of objections or claims, or in anywise relating to the registration of voters in any city, town, or borough, shall be and continue to be in full force and effect as if this Act had not been passed, save only that all such lists shall be prepared and revised, and all such proceedings had, as if the qualifications herein-before defined had been substituted for the qualifications enacted by the third section of "The Representation of the People (Ireland) Act, 1868."

Supplemental lists of new voters of the next year to be made out.

7. And whereas it is expedient that opportunity should be given to persons for the first time entitled to the franchise under this Act of being placed on the register for the ensuing year:

Be it enacted, that in every city, town, and borough returning a Member or Members to Parliament, there shall be prepared, in manner herein-after mentioned, a supplemental list of voters for the next ensuing year, and a special registration sessions for the purpose of revising such list shall be held in manner herein-after provided.

Such supplemental list of voters shall be prepared and revised in the manner herein-after prescribed; that is to say,

It shall be lawful for any person who on the twentieth day of July in this present year shall have occupied any dwelling-house in the said city, town, or borough rated in the then last rate for the relief of the poor at the net annual value of one pound or upwards, to serve a notice of claim on the town clerk in the form contained in the schedule to this Act annexed, on or before the first day of October next.

The town clerk shall include the names of all persons so claiming in a list to be made out, signed, printed, and published in the same manner as the lists of claimants at any ordinary registration are now required to be made out, signed, printed, and published, and all the provisions now in force as to any list of claimants at such ordinary registration, and the mode of dealing with same, and the making of objections to any claimant, and the publication of the lists of persons objected to, and the revising of the lists of claimants, and all other provisions in anywise relating thereto, shall, unless where they are herein expressly altered, be applicable to the supplemental list of claimants under this Act, subject to the following special provisions:

The list of claimants shall be published on or before the eighth of October.

Notice of objection shall be given to the claimant and the town clerk on or before the twentieth of October.

The list of persons objected to shall be published on or before the twenty-second day of October.

No person shall be entitled to object to any claimant except a person whose name shall be on the registry of voters then in force, or on that to come into force for the then next ensuing year.

It shall be a sufficient cause of objection to any claimant that the premises in respect of which he claims were on the twentieth day of July rated at a value exceeding four pounds.

No person shall be objected to on the ground that he had not been rated in respect of the lands, tenements, and hereditaments out of which he claims to be qualified, but every person who on the twentieth day of July shall have been in occupation of such lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and shall have occupied same for twelve full calendar months immediately preceding, shall be

A.D. 1878. — deemed, with reference to the special registration herein provided, to be qualified under this Act, although he is not rated in respect of same.

Special  
revisional  
supplemental  
lists.

8. The county court judge, chairman, or other person or persons whose duty it is to revise the lists of voters for any city, town, or borough shall hold a special registration sessions on some day in the month of November, of which not less than ten days notice shall be given, and shall at such special sessions proceed to revise the said supplemental list of claimants in the same manner as lists of claimants at ordinary registrations are revised. 5 10

The list of claimants when so revised shall be signed by the county court judge, chairman, or other person or persons authorised to revise the same, and shall be handed by him or them to the clerk of the peace acting for such said city, town, or borough, and such list shall be called the supplemental list of voters and all persons whose names appear upon such list shall be entitled to vote at any election thereafter taking place, in the same manner and during the same period as if their names had appeared upon the list of voters revised at the last ordinary registration for such city, town, or borough. 15 20

All the proceedings at such special registration shall be conducted in the same manner in all respects, and be subject to the same rules in respect of appeal and otherwise, as are provided by the statutes now in force in respect of the ordinary registration of voters for any city, town, or borough. 25

List of town  
clerk, proof  
that claim is  
duly made.

9. At any registration, ordinary or special, held for any city, town, or borough after the passing of this Act the appearance of the name of any person upon any list of claimants published by the town clerk shall be taken as *prima facie* proof that the claim set forth in such list was duly made by the claimant, and every claim purporting to be made on behalf of any person to be registered as a voter shall be deemed to be made by him or his authority unless and until such person shall disclaim the same. 30

Construction  
of Act.

10. This Act, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, shall be construed as one with the enactments for the time being in force relating to the representation of the people in Ireland, and with the Registration Acts. 35

Definition of  
Registration  
Act.

11. The Registration Acts shall mean the Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-nine, and all other Acts or parts of Acts relating to the registration or qualifications of persons entitled to vote at the election of Members to serve in Parliament for Ireland as amended by this Act. 40

## SCHEDULE.

A.D. 1878.

## FORM OF CLAIM.

Sir,

I hereby claim to have my name inserted on the supplemental list of voters for the [city, town, or borough] for the ensuing year.

I do so as having on the twentieth of July last, and for twelve months previously, occupied lands, tenements, and hereditaments in the said [city, town, or borough] situate [*describe the lands, tenements, and hereditaments particularly by the number and street*] rated in the then last rate for the relief of the poor at the net annual value of one pound or upwards.

A.B.,  
of [*residence*].

15 To the Town Clerk of

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